

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 10-13 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims, were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. No changes to the claims have been made, as presented herein.

Claims 10-13 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent 6,840,630 (the parent application). As noted by the Examiner, a timely filed Terminal Disclaimer may be used to overcome this rejection provided the conflicting patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. Both the conflicting patent and the present application have been assigned to Sony Corporation. A previously submitted Terminal Disclaimer was rejected as not being signed by an attorney of record. Accordingly, Applicant submits herewith a corrected Terminal Disclaimer to overcome this rejection.

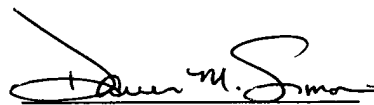
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

A statutory disclaimer fee is deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment. No additional fees are anticipated, but if such are required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren M. Simon", written over a horizontal line.

Darren M. Simon
Reg. No. 47,946
(212) 588-0800